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MARKET BOSWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H .

For the Year 1942.

MARKET BOSWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

For the Year 1942.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to present my Annual Report on the Health of your District.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Area (in acres)..... | 63,717. |
| Population Census, 1921..... | 23,196. |
| " " 1931..... | 23,544. |
| Estimated resident Population 1931... | 23,780. |
| " " " 1942... | 23,580. |
| Number of inhabited houses..... | 6,306. |
| Rateable Value..... | £94,142. |
| Sum represented by a penny rate..... | £367. |

Social Conditions.

The Population is partly industrial and partly agrarian, the main industries being Coal Mining, Granite Quarrying and, to a small extent, Hosiery Manufacture. These are all situated in the North of the District.

Vital Statistics.

| | | | | |
|----------------------|---------|---------|--------|------|
| Births, Legitimate. | M. 217. | F. 206. | Total. | 423. |
| " Illegitimate. | M. 10. | F. 3. | Total. | 13. |
| | M. 227. | F. 209. | Total. | 436. |

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------|-------|
| Stillbirths. | 19 Legitimate. | 1 illegitimate. | Total. | 20. |
| Birth Rate..... | | | | 18.4. |
| " " for England and Wales..... | | | | 15.8. |
| Deaths..... | M. 136. | F. 113. | Total. | 249. |
| Crude Death Rate..... | | | | 10.5. |
| Death Rate for England and Wales..... | | | | 11.6. |

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis.....0.
from other Puerperal causes.....1.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:-
Legitimate - 19. Illegitimate - 0. Total. 19.

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 births.....43.

" " " for England & Wales.....49.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages).....36.

" " Measles " " 0.

" " Whooping Cough (all ages)..... 0.

" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years)..... 2.

CAUSES OF DEATH. (Civilians only)

| <u>Causes of Death.</u> | <u>Males.</u> | <u>Females.</u> |
|----------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| All causes..... | 136. | 113. |
| Scarlet Fever..... | - | - |
| Measles..... | - | - |
| Whooping Cough..... | - | - |
| Diphtheria..... | 2. | 3. |
| Influenza..... | 2. | - |
| Encephalitis Lethargica..... | - | - |
| Cerebro Spinal Fever..... | 1. | - |
| Respiratory Tuberculosis..... | 4. | 3. |
| Other Tuberculosis..... | 3. | 2. |
| Syphilis..... | 1. | - |
| Cancer, malignant disease..... | 19. | 17. |
| Diabetes..... | - | 2. |
| Intra Cranial Vascular lesions..... | 16. | 11. |
| Heart Disease..... | 32. | 25. |
| Other Circulatory Diseases..... | 1. | 2. |
| Bronchitis..... | 3. | 3. |
| Pneumonia (all forms)..... | 8. | 5. |
| Other Respiratory Diseases..... | 1. | 1. |
| Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum..... | 1. | 1. |
| Diarrhoea etc., (under two years)..... | 2. | - |
| Appendicitis and Typhlitis..... | - | - |
| Other digestive Diseases..... | 7. | 2. |
| Acute and Chronic Nephritis..... | 4. | 2. |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Congenital Causes..... | 3. | 3. |
| Puerperal Sepsis..... | - | - |
| Other maternal causes..... | - | 1. |
| Premature Births..... | 1. | 2. |
| Suicide..... | 1. | - |
| Road Traffic Accidents..... | 1. | 2. |
| Other deaths from violence..... | 6. | - |
| All other causes..... | 17. | 26. |

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals provided or subsidized by the Local Authority or County Council:-

- A. 1. Fever. The Isolation Hospitals are controlled by the Leicestershire Isolation Hospitals Committee. Patients are sent to such Hospitals as have beds available for the disease from which they are suffering. The principal Hospital is situated in this District.
2. Small Pox. There are two Hospitals provided for the County as a whole.


- B. 1.)
- 2.) Tuberculosis, Maternity and Children's Hospitals.

Accommodation is controlled by the County Council and the matter is dealt with comprehensively in the County Report. The County Sanatorium is situated at Markfield in this District.

Ambulance Facilities.

- (a) For infectious Cases. Motor Ambulances are provided in connection with the Isolation Hospitals.
- (b) For non-infectious Cases and Accident. In April 1944, the Council accepted the gift of the "Wollaston" Ambulance from Mrs. Wollaston of Shenton Hall. The Leicester Royal Infirmary and other voluntary organisations also provide facilities.

Clinics and Treatment Centres:- All under the County Council.



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Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

The Medical Officer of Health is a part-time official but does not engage in private practice.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector, who is also Sanitary Surveyor, devotes the whole of his time to his official duties, as also does the additional Sanitary Inspector.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

The County Council's Health Visitors visit cases in this District. There are District Nurses in all the larger Parishes.

Midwives.

The supervision of Midwives is vested in the County Council.

Chemical Work.

Analyses of foods and drugs are conducted by the County Analyst. The Medical Officer of Health analyzes samples of water.

Legislation in force.

Byelaws with respect to New Buildings were adopted for the whole District in 1925.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

| | | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| <u>Water.</u> | No. of samples taken for analysis..... | 34. |
| | No. condemned..... | 11. |
| <u>Wells.</u> | No. closed..... | - |
| | No. cleansed, repaired etc.,..... | 3. |
| | No. of cases in which Public supply was substituted for well water..... | 28. |
| | No. of Parishes with a piped water supply from Public mains..... | 9. |
| | No. of Parishes without a piped supply..... | 11. |

There has been no appreciable shortage of water during the year. Arrangements have been made to have available trailer tanks and tanks in lorries capable of transporting 1000 gallons to supplement local water supplies in an emergency.

(2) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

No. of cesspools constructed during the year....nil.
No. of cesspools abolished during the year.....nil.
Total number in District on December 31st.....293.

(3) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Total number in District on December 31st:-

- (1) Privies (for which the Council
are responsible).....3.
- (2) Pail Closets.....3,530.
- (3) W.C's.....2,642.

No. of Closets converted to the water carriage
systems during the year:-

- (a) Privies.....nil.
- (b) Pails.....300.

No. of Privies (middens) converted to pail
closets during the year.....nil.

(4) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Under the system of centralised collection, service is now
being given every ten days to the whole of the Rural District,
6,692 Dustbins and 3,530 Pail Closets being emptied each round.

The strain due to evacuation has eased, but has been
increased by Military causes. Labour shortage is acute owing to
the calling up of men for service in the Forces, and the transfer
of labour to the Mines and Munitions.

The Essential Works Order was applied to this Council on
the 21st. December 1941.

(5) SALVAGE.

Salvage is collected every three weeks and comprises all
classes of materials as described in the monthly Salvage Return
required by the Ministry. The collection of Salvage is carried
out under the direction of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and is
quite separate from the ordinary refuse collection. Collections
are still satisfactory and it is mentioned at the conclusion of
three years of Salvage that a total tonnage of 1,684 tons was
collected, realising £6,314.

(6) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Total No. of complaints received.....84.

Total No. of defects or nuisances discovered.68.

Nature of Inspections:--

| | Inspections | Revisits |
|--------------------------------|-------------|----------|
| Dwelling Houses (all purposes) | 360. | 150. |
| Tents, Vans etc., | 38. | 43. |
| Slaughter Houses. | 128. | -- |
| Food Premises. | 3. | -- |
| Dairies and Cowsheds. | 271. | 56. |
| Offensive Trades. | 4. | -- |
| Animal Keeping. | 6. | 1. |
| Workshops etc., | 14. | 2. |
| Shops. | 120. | -- |
| Other premises. | 14. | -- |
| TOTAL. | 958. | 252. |

(7) SHOPS.

Particulars of action taken during year under the Provisions of the Shops Act 1934.

| | Outstanding from previous year. | Defects found. | Defects remedied. | Outstanding 31st. December. |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sanitary convenience. | -- | 7. | 7. | nil. |
| Temperature. | -- | -- | -- | nil. |
| Ventilation. | -- | -- | -- | nil. |

(8) CAMPING SITES.

No. of sites in area used for Camping purposes during year.....17.

(9) REGULATED BUILDINGS.

| Regulated Buildings. | No. in District. | No. of Inspections. | Action taken. | General conditions. |
|--------------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Common Lodging Houses. | - | - | - | - |
| Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. | 32. | 38. | 9. | FAIR. |
| Canal Boats. | - | - | - | - |
| Offensive Trades. | 1. | 4. | - | FAIR. |

(10) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

Particulars of action taken:-

No. of Council Houses infested.....2.
No. of other dwelling houses found infested....9.
No. of houses disinfested.....11.

(11) SCHOOLS.

(a) Sanitary conditions.....GOOD.
(b) Water supply of Schools....Shortage at South Charnwood.
(c) No. of Schools disinfected and method employed.....,NONE.

(12) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

No. in Area..... NIL.

HOUSING.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).....116.
(b) No. of inspections made for the purpose.....185.
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under subhead (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932.....Nil.
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.....Nil.
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.....Nil.

- (4) No. of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding subhead) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.....62.

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.....54.

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:-

4. HOUSING ACT. 1936 - Part IV - OVERCROWDING.

- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.....not known.
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein..... " "
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein..... " "
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.....Nil.
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.....Nil.
(ii) No. of persons concerned in such cases.....Nil.

It has been found impossible to keep accurate records of overcrowding conditions in the Area owing to the influx of official and unofficial evacuees and munition workers.

(13) INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply:-

COWKEEPERS.

| No. on Register. | No. of Inspections. | No. of Contraventions. | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | Outstanding from previous year. | Found during year. | Remedied during year. | Outstanding on 31st. December. |
| 314. | 210. | 4. | 22. | 21. | 5 |

DAIRYMEN OR PURVEYORS OF MILK.
(other than Cowkeepers)

| No. on Register. | No. of Inspections. | No. of Contraventions. | | | |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | Outstanding from previous year. | Found during year. | Remedied during year. | Outstanding on 31st. December. |
| 134. | 61. | Nil. | 14. | 14. | Nil. |

TOTAL CONTRAVENTIONS.

| | Outstanding from prev- ious year. | Found during year. | Remedied during year. | Outstanding on 31st. December. |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Cleansing. | 1. | 9. | 8. | 1. |
| Structural Alterations. | 2. | 14. | 16. | Nil. |
| Utensils. | 2. | 8. | 10. | Nil. |
| Other. | - | 5. | 1. | 4. |

MILK SAMPLING.

| Class. | Total number of samples taken for bacteriological examination. | Number satisfactory. | Number. unsatisfactory. |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Designated. | Taken by County Council. | - | - |
| Ordinary. | 14 and 67 sediment tests. | 12. | 2. |

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

No. of Regional Slaughter Houses in District.....NIL.
No. of animals slaughtered elsewhere.....1,953.
No. of animals examined elsewhere.....1,172.
No. of inspections of Meat at time of slaughter..... 586.
No. of Knacker Yards in District..... NIL.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

| | Cattle excluding Cows. | Cows. | Calves. | Sheep and Lambs. | Pigs. | Total weight in lbs. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------|---------|------------------------|--------|----------------------------|
| Number killed (if known) | - | - | - | - | 1953.. | Not known. |
| Number inspected. | - | - | - | - | 1172. | Not known. |
| <u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.</u> | | | | | | |
| Whole Carcases condemned. | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned. | - | - | - | - | 24. | - |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis. | - | - | - | - | 2.05% | - |

MEAT STALLS.

No. of Inspections.....Nil.

MEAT SHOPS, MEAT STORES ETC.,

No. of Inspections.....28.

PLACES WHERE FOOD (OTHER THAN MEAT) IS KEPT OR PREPARED FOR SALE.

No. of Inspections.....15.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year was much the same as in the previous year with the exception of Diphtheria, Measles and Whooping Cough, in each of which was a marked decline.

Diphtheria cases notified dropped from 62 in 1941 to 39, Measles from 253 to 56 and Whooping Cough from 91 to 15.

The decline in the number of cases of Diphtheria is most satisfactory and it appears that the immunisation of the children so far carried out, although not so complete as I would have wished, is now having its effect.

During the year, every village, even the most remote hamlet, was visited and facilities offered to the residents to take advantage of the protection. In this respect, the Wollaston Ambulance as a mobile unit proved of inestimable value. During the year 798 children received treatment, 490 under five years, and 308 between five and fifteen years. In addition to this 460 children received a third injection. In my report for last year I mentioned that I was not satisfied with the figures for the under five group, and that a special effort was being made to reach these. I am happy to report that this has proved successful. This is shown by the figures in the half yearly returns to the Ministry of Health.

On the 30th. June 1942, 35% of the children under five and 57% five to fifteen had received treatment. At the time of writing this report, the figures for this year (30th. June 1943) are 63% under five and 92.2% five to fifteen years. This is a great advance and I attribute the success to two factors, (1) direct approach to the

parents, a letter is sent to the parent of every child under five just prior to visiting the village, urging their taking advantage of the treatment, and giving the date, time etc., of our visit.

(2) facilities offered practically on their doorsteps.

The following cases of Infectious Disease came under observation during the year:-

| <u>Disease.</u> | <u>Total cases notified.</u> | <u>Cases admitted to Hospital.</u> | <u>Total Deaths.</u> |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Diphtheria. | 39. | 39. | 5. |
| Scarlet Fever. | 68. | 68. | - |
| Pneumonia. | 24. | - | 13. |
| Erysipelas. | 5. | 2. | - |
| Puerperal Pyrexia. | 4. | 4. | - |
| Cerebro Spinal Meningitis. | 8. | 7. | 1. |
| Measles. | 56. | - | - |
| Whooping Cough. | 15. | 1. | - |

In addition to the above, the following cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year:-

| <u>Age Periods.</u> | <u>New Cases.</u> | | | | <u>Deaths.</u> | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----|-------------------------|----|---------------------|----|-------------------------|----|
| | <u>Respiratory.</u> | | <u>Non-Respiratory.</u> | | <u>Respiratory.</u> | | <u>Non-Respiratory.</u> | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 1 and under 5 years. | - | - | - | 1. | - | - | - | 1. |
| 5 " " 15 " | 1. | 2. | 1. | - | 1. | 1. | 1. | 1. |
| 15 " " 45 " | 11. | 10. | 1. | 1. | 3. | 3. | - | - |
| 45 " " 65 " | - | - | 2. | - | 1. | - | 1. | - |
| TOTAL. | 12. | 12. | 4. | 2. | 4. | 4. | 2. | 2. |

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, nor was any action necessary under Sect. 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

LABORATORY WORK.

The following specimens were examined by the County Bacteriologist:-

| | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| Milk Examinations (bact)..... | 214. |
| Throat Swabs for Diphtheria..... | 130. |
| Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli..... | 78. |
| Sewage and Water Analyses..... | 22. |
| Blood for Wasserman Test..... | 35. |
| Urine. T.B. etc.,..... | 11. |
| Miscellaneous..... | 20. |
| Total. | 510. |

I have the honour to be your obedient servant,
 Desford. T.W. GORDON KELLY. M.D., D.P.H. (Oxon)
 Leicester. Medical Officer of Health.
 28th. July. 1943.

